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Eire Taxation Relief

Dublin, Feb. 24.—The new Eireann Government has taken its first step to reduce a promise of reduced taxation made during the general election.

A statement issued tonight announced that duties on tobacco, beer and entertainment imposed in October are to be removed. No mention is made of increased duties on wines, spirits, fur and cosmetics, the road-tax on motor cars, and stamp duties on estates.

The present Government is a coalition formed by Mr. John Costello after the defeat of Mr. Eamon de Valera.—Reuter.

PALESTINE COMMISSION

PI Delegate Resigns

Lake Success, Feb. 24.—Senator Vicente Francisco, Philippine delegate, said today he has resigned from the United Nations Palestine Commission.

Francisco's resignation followed the disclosure last week of growing friction within the five-member commission which has the task of partitioning the Holy Land.

He said he would continue to serve on the commission until his government names a successor. His resignation was sent to Manila four days ago, Francisco said, but had not yet been accepted when he confirmed it here.

SLOW PROGRESS
 Francisco said he resigned because the progress of the Commission has been much slower than he had expected when he accepted the post. Because of pressing private business in Manila, he said, it is impossible for him to remain away from home any longer.

Francisco is known to have differed sharply with several other members of the Commission on some issues. He denied he resigned because of the internal friction in the Commission's secret meetings.

"My association with all members of the Commission have been harmonious," he said. "They are all sincere and competent men." Francisco is majority floor leader in the Philippine Senate and one of the leading criminal lawyers in the Philippines. He said he has had several legal cases postponed until March and April and that it is necessary for him to get home to handle them.—Associated Press.

Steamer Missing

Stockholm, Feb. 24.—The 550-ton Swedish steamer, Ivan, bound for the Baltic port of Stolpmunde from Nalmo, Southern Sweden, was last night missing on her 200-mile voyage.

Stolpmunde is in the area of Germany which was handed over to Poland under the Potsdam Agreement.—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

Education In Hongkong

UPWARDS of 200,000 children are now being educated in Hongkong, which figure tells the story better than any words of the remarkable effort made by the Education Department, and Chinese private schools, in bringing the Colony's educational facilities to a level hardly surpassed in the pre-war years. And this, despite the fact that neither King's College nor Queen's College any longer exist, and in the face of formidable obstacles such as difficulty of providing accommodation, staff shortages and lack of equipment. Today the education of something like 6,000 children is directly under the supervision of Government and another thirteen or fourteen thousand are being taught in Grant-in-Aid schools, and yet a further 20,000 or more are students of schools subsidised by the authorities. These are striking figures, indicative not only of the manner in which education has found its feet since the Liberation, but of the important position which schooling now occupies in the affairs of the Colony. The only question in doubt is whether Government appreciates this importance. Reference to the 1947-48 estimates reveals that only about five per cent of the total expenditure has been allocated for education, including personal emoluments. This can hardly be described as excessive generosity. Education in Hongkong should be regarded as one of the principal services to the community. If for no other reason than that the money ex-

UNITED STATES DECLARES ITS POLICY ON PALESTINE

Urges Security Council To Begin Consultations

Lake Success, Feb. 24.—The long-awaited United States policy on Palestine was laid down here today with a declaration that the Security Council should at once begin consultations with the Palestine Commission, with Britain, and with representatives of the Jews and Arabs, at New York, in an effort to reach agreement on the General Assembly's plan for partition.

Mr. Warren Austin, the United States delegate, making this recommendation, also said that the Security Council must first of all determine whether there is a threat to international peace in the Palestine situation.

He proposed that the Security Council establish a committee made up of five of its permanent members to look into the question of a possible threat to international peace. He urged also that the Council call upon all governments and peoples to assist in the prevention and reduction of disorders in Palestine.

Mr. Austin declared: "The United States, as a member of the United Nations, will continue to deal with the question of Palestine in conjunction with other members."

"The United States policy will not be unilateral. It will conform to, and be in support of, the United Nations action on Palestine."

"It is of first importance to the future of the United Nations that the precedent to be established by action taken in this case be, in full accord with the terms of the Charter under which we operate."

"In considering whether or not the situation in Palestine is a threat to international peace, the Council should consult with the United Kingdom, which, as the mandatory power, is responsible for the protection of Palestine."

Under the Charter, he said, the Council was responsible for determining the existence of any threat to peace.

COUNCIL MUST ACT

"If it makes such a determination with respect to the situation in Palestine, the Council is required by the Charter to act."

Mortar Shells Fired Into Police Compound

Jerusalem, Feb. 24.—Jewish mortars threw three-inch shells into the Palestine police compound just before noon on Tuesday.

One of the shells hit a post office nearby and another blasted the roof of a small building in the police billets area.

There were no casualties. The mortar blasts set off the alarm sirens for the second time. The first alert followed the roadmining of a Jewish bus being used to haul bread to the beleaguered Mekor Haim settlements in the Jerusalem outskirts.

Rifle and automatic fire have been heard throughout Jerusalem most of the morning. A series of bursts punctuated the "All clear" siren after the mortar attack.

Police officials said the three-inch mortar shells came from the Jewish area of Jerusalem which was shattered by a bomb at dawn on Sunday.

Rescue workers are still digging into the debris of the Atlantic Hotel and engineers are planning to haul down some of the walls made treacherous by the force of the blast.

A Jewish Agency spokesman told a news conference:

"There is no doubt in our minds that the Jewish area bombing was perpetrated by British personnel. It is in the essence of such attacks to make it impossible to determine the identity of the attackers but we are continuing our investigation in the belief that they were British."

SEEK COMPENSATION
 It was disclosed that Ben Yehuda Street merchants damaged by the attack have formed a committee to approach the government for repayment of losses since we feel the government should bear the full financial responsibility."

A government spokesman said one mortar bomb landed just outside the maternity ward of the government hospital but did little damage. The hospital is a few yards from police headquarters.

One Arab was killed and two injured in a stens gun attack on a Jewish bus as it sped past the Jewish Montefiore quarter of Jerusalem. Police said five Arabs, including one child, were killed and nine injured when their convoy was fired on by a passing Jewish convoy near Gaza. Four deaths were reported previously.

This makes the death toll since partition 1,370.—Associated Press.

"The Council, by these same powers, can take action to prevent a threat to international peace and security from inside."

"But this action must be directed solely to the maintenance of international peace. The Council's action, in other words, is directed to keeping peace, not to enforcing partition."

LACK OF RESTRAINT

The United Kingdom Colonial Secretary, Mr. Arthur Creech Jones, told the Security Council that the military withdrawal and winding up of the civil administration in Palestine are both "being carried out against a background of increasing violence."

"Indeed, the general security position in Palestine has degenerated very seriously since the resolution of the General Assembly was passed on November 30 last year," he said.

"This deterioration, due to a lack of restraint by both communities inside Palestine, has been aggravated by the activities of groups beyond the borders—the intrusion of armed Arab bands, and on the Jewish side—by the continuance of illegal immigration."

"In endeavouring to control this situation, British civil and military personnel have suffered a heavy toll of life and property."

"Nevertheless, the British forces have, on frequent occasions, kept the contending factions apart, have suppressed much violence, have controlled the frontiers, and have prevented open civil war."

"Since the resolution of November 30, my Government have provided the Palestine Commission with a large body of information to enable it to take up the responsibilities assigned to it by the United Nations."

POSITION EXPLAINED

"It is essentially because of the difficulties of security, and the dangers of divided responsibility in Palestine under present conditions, that the mandatory power, faced with specific threats by the Arabs, could not agree to open a port to Jewish immigration, could not agree to the progressive transfer of areas to the Commission's administration or to the formation of a militia under the control of the provisional government of the future Jewish State."

"Nor could my Government safely extend the period of overlap, during which the United Nations Commission, while the responsibility for security and administration still rested with the mandatory power."

"Notwithstanding all these obstacles, the mandatory administration has made some progress in the devolution of powers to local Jewish and Arab authorities, in the creation of police forces drawn from both communities, and in the transfer of control over vital services."

M. Karel Lisicky, of Czechoslovakia, Chairman of the Palestine Commission, presenting the Committee's report on its examination of the problems, declared: "The only way of implementing the plan of partition as it has been envisaged by the Assembly consists in providing for assistance by non-Palestinian military forces, available, not to be present in Palestine, but in effective adequate strength."

PREDOMINANT FACTOR

Calling for a realistic approach to the problem, Mr. Lisicky took the example of Jerusalem, where the security service was assured by 900 British and 350 Palestinian police, supported by more than a brigade of British military troops.

Even so, he said, there were daily shootings and bombings. The security aspect of the problem commanded all the rest. "Even with the support of strong military forces, we witness daily cases of shooting, bombing and indiscriminate killing."

Mr. King told the House that it was now hoped that the British Government would agree to the publication of all documents so that the Canadian people could get a full picture of the action.

Third Degree Accusations

London, Feb. 24.—An accusation that British and Allied officers used third degree methods against Germans at the Bad Nenndorf interrogation camp in Germany was made in the House of Commons today by a Labour Member, Mr. Richard Stokes.

He said he himself had visited the camp, where he found men in cells 10 degrees below zero. "To my certain knowledge, one man had his legs frozen off."

Four British Allied officers concerned with the allegations of ill-treatment are awaiting court martial.

Another Labour Member, Mr. Thomas Driberg, asked what disciplinary action had been taken against a British officer and non-commissioned officers who had "beat up" Herr Werner Kleindienst, a 20-year-old German student.

Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, the War Minister, replied that the officers' conduct was "improper and unworthy of the British Army."

They had been reprimanded and transferred to other duties or in one case released from the Army.—Reuter.

DRAIN ON \$ RESERVES CONTINUES

Bad News For Britons

London, Feb. 24.—The Government disclosed tonight that its efforts to reduce the drain on Britain's gold and dollar reserves failed during January.

The Government spokesman, Lord Pakenham, told the House of Lords that the drain on the reserves rose from £48 million in December to £57,500,000 in January.

He added, however, that this was not a "characteristic figure" but, writes Sydney Gampell, Reuter's Financial Editor, this result is worse than was expected. It had not been supposed that the net January drain would exceed about £50,000,000.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Cripps, tonight underlined the importance of stopping this drain. He said that during the period of Marshall aid, Britain would need the backing of a gold and dollar reserve for the trade of the sterling area to maintain the confidence of the rest of the sterling area and the world which was essential to any world stability in trade.

"There is a really hard struggle before us," Sir Stafford said. It was a struggle of tremendous world importance.

ANTI-INFLATION MOVES

In a series of moves today in the home front battle to stop inflation, the national organisation of the Wholesale Distributors agreed to co-operate in the voluntary reduction of profits and prices. It formed four sub-committees to draft details of a scheme for the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Chancellor later told a deputation representing staffs employed in Government offices that the proposals from Civil Service trade unions for the gradual introduction of equal pay for women could not be applied at present.

The President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Harold Wilson, today signed 14 new orders bringing more than 100 articles of everyday use from umbrellas to radios under a more rigid price control.

(Continued on Page 4)

U.S. Calls For Elections In South Korea

Lake Success, Feb. 24.—The United States today called for an immediate election in South Korea to establish a National Government despite the United Nations Korea Commission report that it did not support such a step.

The American delegate, Mr. Philip Jessup, told the Little Assembly: "We believe that this will provide the Korean people with their best chance to establish a stable government, reflecting the will of the majority."

"The United States has not wished, and does not wish, to perpetuate the arbitrary division of Korea along the 38th Parallel. It urges that a National Assembly, representing all Korea, be elected on a basis of population."

Mr. Jessup urged that one-third of the seats should be reserved for the representatives of North Korea, the Soviet-occupied zone.

"If it should unhappily prove to be the case that the Commission could not continue with observations of the elections north of the 38th Parallel, due to the opposition of the Soviet authorities, the result would nevertheless be that two-thirds of the Korean people would have elected their proportional share of the members of a Korean National Assembly."

"One-third of the Korean people would have been denied the opportunity to elect their representatives at that Assembly."

"The Korean people and all the world would know who had denied them that opportunity."

Mr. Jessup submitted a resolution to the Assembly, declaring that it was incumbent on the Commission to implement an election programme in such parts of Korea as are accessible to the Commission.

CHINESE SUPPORT

Dr. T. F. Tsiang, the Chinese delegate, said: "Members of the Commission feel that they should do nothing to crystallise the division between the North and the South. We should be very careful in our execution of any course of action which we may adopt with particular reference to this point of Korean unity."

"I cannot conceive of any better way for the United Nations to make a contribution to the independence and unity of Korea than the course of action which the General Assembly resolutions set forth."

"Last there be any misunderstanding on this matter, I wish to make it perfectly clear that my delegation and Government do not wish to see such a National Government adopt an anti-Soviet policy."

"On the contrary, we would like to see Korea do all it could to cultivate the best friendly relations with Russia."

"Today's American request for immediate elections in South Korea—which American forces have occupied since the end of the war with Japan—came after reports from the Russian-occupied northern half that a Northern Korean 'People's Army' had been created and a 'Democratic People's Republic' declared."

This announcement was believed in Washington to have been made to embarrass the Chairman of the United Nations Commission, who is due to report to the Little Assembly this week on the Russian refusal to allow the Commission into Northern Korea to prepare for national elections.

The American State Department, however, refrained from commenting on the clarification of the situation.—Reuter.

Manchuria Is Virtually Lost To Reds

Nanking, Feb. 25.—All reports available here indicate that the Government position in Manchuria is becoming sharply untenable as Communists close the ranks for a full-dress drive on Mukden from all sides.

While battle is underway in what is believed to be the final phase of the Manchurian warfare, Government control of territory in the North-east has been reduced to a precarious foothold in 13 counties and cities, independent despatches said.

The main threat to Mukden is now gathering from the south-east, where the Communists have already succeeded in isolating the coal-mining centre of Penki, 40 miles from Mukden, while severe fighting is also in progress along the Huang and Liao rivers.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the Ministry of National Defence denied as "entirely untrue" the American news agency report that Chinese Air Force planes have stopped flights to Mukden.

FLIGHTS CONTINUE

He said: "Not only military transports, but also civilian planes are maintaining regular flights between Mukden and other cities. The Chinese Air Force Headquarters never issued any order to suspend flights."

General Chang Tso-hsiang, one of the veteran Manchurian leaders, on arrival here yesterday said that the Manchurian situation though critical was not hopeless and the only remedy lay in successful military operations.

Mr. Mo Teh-hui, State Councillor, predicted large-scale military operations in Manchuria with the advent of spring. He urged the Government to make every effort to gain control of the railway lines and areas, and not be content to hold a few points.

Semi-official reports from Hopedai state that the Communists may shortly make another attempt to break into the provincial capital of Nanking, which they unsuccessfully tried to capture on numerous occasions in the past. Fairly heavy Communist troop movements towards the city are said to have been noticed.

—Reuter-AAP.

Vote Of Confidence

Paris, Feb. 24.—The French National Assembly gave the Prime Minister, M. Robert Schuman, his sixth vote of confidence today by 301 votes against 275—a majority of 26.

The vote was on the Cabinet's decision to refuse a bill calling for the payment of the withdrawn 5,000-franc notes.—Reuter.

Canadians Still Want Full Report On Hongkong's Fall To Be Published

Ottawa, Feb. 24.—Mr. Mackenzie King, the Canadian Prime Minister, agreed in the House of Commons here today to ask the British Government to reconsider its objection to publication of some parts of the report of the 1942 Royal Commission which investigated the fall of Hongkong in 1941.

Two Canadian regiments were captured there. For some days, the progressive Conservative Opposition have pressed for the documents to be made public and Mr. Mackenzie King had cabled to the British Government for permission.

The authorities in London stated that inter-governmental correspondence should in future remain confidential.

Mr. King told the House that it was now hoped that the British Government would agree to the publication of all documents so that the Canadian people could get a full picture of the action.

The demand for a new appeal to Britain came from Mr. C. G. Power, Air Minister during the war, whose son was captured at Hongkong, after Mr. King had stated he was prepared to make public evidence which had been given before a Canadian Commission.

The British authorities, he said, had not been able to agree to the publication of telegrams which related to the international situation in the Far East as they belong to a class of communication framed on the basis that they would not be published.

"They said the system of frank and full communications between Governments of the Commonwealth would be prejudiced if telegrams had to be prepared on the basis that they might be published," Mr. King said.

Leaders of the three Opposition parties agreed with Mr. King but Mr. Power, who sits on the Government side of the House, though no longer in the Cabinet, asked for the British decision to be reconsidered.

As one who played a large part in the assembling and dispatching of the Canadian force at Hongkong, he said, he wanted the Canadian people to get a complete picture.

And as one associated with the "Canadianisation" of the Canadian forces, he wanted all information to be made public on what could happen when Canadian troops were asked to serve under officers who were not Canadian and not responsible to the Canadian people.

"I feel such information would give guidance as to what policy should be in the event of another war," he said.—Reuter.

SHOWING TO-DAY **KING'S** At 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.

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A Chinese Picture with Mandarin Dialogue.

NEXT CHANGE



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COMMENCING FRIDAY

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"O.K. How d'you like MY New Look?"

Every Wednesday in the Telegraph:

Sitting on the Fence

by NATHANIEL GUBBINS

REPORT from the Cornell University:

"Cannibalism has been the adjuster of the food supply to the population, and of the population to the food supply. Furthermore, it tends to upgrade the diet. Historically, it cannot be overlooked, but currently it cannot be discussed in polite society. It is a case where a social gain has been achieved at the expense of a nutritional loss."

★ ★ ★

Time: Summer 1955. Every food shop in Britain is empty.

Characters: Charles, Celia and Uncle Edward.

Place: Celia's drawing room. Window overlooking garden, back centre. Charles and Celia are seated on divan with their backs to window.

CHARLES: You look lonely tonight. Positively delicious.

CELIA: Don't say things like that, Charles. Not these days. It sounds quite frightening.

CHARLES: I didn't mean anything horrible—really I didn't.

CELIA: But you must be hungry, poor darling.

CHARLES: I'm starving.

CELIA (sighing): I simply don't know what we're going to do. There's nothing to eat at all, anywhere.

CHARLES: Except people.

CELIA: Oh, Charles! I could never do that. Never. I'd rather starve to death, wouldn't you?

CHARLES (looking thoughtfully at her): I don't know. Charles, you wouldn't... you weren't thinking?

CHARLES: No, of course not, darling. We love each other, don't we? (Still looking thoughtfully at her) You're losing a lot of weight.

CELIA: Well, you always liked skinny women, didn't you?

CHARLES: I used to.

CELIA: Charles, I wish you wouldn't look at me like that. It reminds me of something I'd almost forgotten, the way farmers looked at cattle.

CHARLES: We're all beginning to look at each other like that.

CELIA: But not me, Charles, please.

CHARLES: No, not you, darling. There are plenty of other people.

CELIA (quietly): Charles, let's starve rather than that.

CHARLES: But I don't like starving. Celia, the Government's sanctioned it to preserve the race, or part of it. Only a few squeamish people like us are standing out. And if we go on standing out, you know what will happen to us—before we get too thin.

CELIA rises and walks about the room in an agitated manner. Charles watches her.

CHARLES: After all, it's not much worse than eating pigs. I once met a pig with big brown eyes and long lashes.

CELIA stops, suddenly in her walk.

CELIA: That wasn't funny. It was in filthy bad taste.

CHARLES: Oh, I'm sorry, Celia. I wasn't thinking of your big brown

eyes and long lashes, really I wasn't. This pig's eyes were reddish brown, not velvety brown like yours.

(Celia continues her agitated walk.)

CHARLES: As this is a question of survival, I think we ought to take a more rational view of the whole business. I remember years ago an American chap said, "Cannibalism has been the adjuster of the food supply to the population, and of the population to the food supply." Well, he was right. No, both ways hungry now, except us.

CELIA: I'd rather go hungry.

CHARLES: This American chap also said, "Cannibalism tends to upgrade the diet." Well, look at your Uncle Edward since—

CELIA: Stop it, Charles.

CHARLES: I won't stop it. Let's face the facts. Your Uncle Edward is looking fatter than he's ever looked before. And what's more, there's much more room in that overcrowded house of his now than there was before.

CELIA (stopping and staring out of the window): Maybe you're right.

CHARLES: I'm sure I'm right, and I'm glad to see you're taking a more sensible view.

CELIA: What else did this American say?

CHARLES: Well, referring to the fact that it was not then practised and could not be discussed in polite society, he said: "It is a case where a social gain has been achieved at a nutritional loss."

CELIA (still staring through the window): What did he mean by that?

CHARLES: He meant that, because it couldn't be discussed, people had to sort of do without each other—and well—felt a bit peckish, I suppose. But in some cases, of course, it's been both a nutritional gain and a social gain. You can hardly say that Uncle Edward's sister was much of a social asset.

CELIA: No. Hardly.

CHARLES: And you can't say that awful woman who gave bridge teas and talked entirely in platitudes was a loss.

CELIA: No, I can't. But wasn't there something wrong with her inside?

CHARLES: Nothing at all, although she was always yapping about it. They got a clean bill from the doctor before they, well, before—

you know, they always do.

CELIA: I suppose it's just as well.

CHARLES: It's amazing how healthy these bony are. Everybody says they make the best—well, you know what I mean. They used to condemn 'unhealthy' cotes, didn't they?

CELIA: Really, Charles.

CHARLES: Oh, don't be silly, Celia. It's absolutely painless.

CELIA: Do you mind if I open the window?

CHARLES: Not a bit. It's getting rather hot.

(Celia opens the window and makes a sign to Uncle Edward, who approaches through the garden carrying a sack.)

CELIA: Yes, Charles.

CHARLES: You know I love you, don't you?

CELIA: Of course, Charles.

CHARLES: And you love me?

CELIA: You know I do.

CHARLES: You once said you would do anything for me—literally anything. Did you mean it?

CELIA: I did.

(Uncle Edward is now at the window and climbing stealthily through it.)

CHARLES: Come over and sit beside me, Celia.

(Celia walks over and sits beside him.)

CHARLES (taking her hand): Celia.

CELIA: Yes?

CHARLES: I'm terribly hungry.

CELIA: Poor darling.

CHARLES: You look so delicious. Did I tell you that before?

CELIA (smiling): Even before the food shops were empty.

(He puts his arms round her as Uncle Edward creeps up on them with the sack.)

CHARLES: Poor Celia. Getting thinner every day.

CELIA: Poor Charles, getting hungrier every day.

CHARLES: Do you know what I'm thinking?

CELIA: I expect so.

CHARLES: What are you thinking?

CELIA: The same.

CHARLES: And you don't mind?

CELIA: Not now.

CHARLES: I couldn't bear anybody else.

CELIA: Nor could I.

(Uncle Edward makes a sudden spring at Charles, puts the sack over his head, and holds him still.)

UNCLE EDWARD (to Celia): Dinner tonight at 7.30.

CELIA: I can hardly wait.

(All performing rights reserved.)

★ ★ ★

Party conversation

"MARGARET's father says the day we can distil whisky from coal will be the turning point in our fortunes."

"Who's going to be in the bomb disposal squad in the new A.R.P.?"

"If only my husband would say no as often as Molotov says, no, he'd

be in better health and we'd have more money in the bank."

"In a few years money in the bank won't mean a thing. The only commodities of value will be a house to live in, clothes to wear, enough to eat and good health."

"Margaret's father says if they could distil whisky from coal he would go down the mines himself."

"If and when we're not short of anything, what will happen to the black marketeers?"

"They'll reappear as wealthy retired citizens in Surrey mansions."

"Broader's husband's dreading her Christmas dinner so much that he's feeling sick in advance."

"What is this drink? Ether and vinegar?"

"Margaret's father's working on another idea to make gin out of grass."

"I'm going to be one of the 12,000,000 to disappear. I'm going off with a bang."

"We ought to start stage coaches again, except that there is nothing worth eating at the inns."

"There's nothing worth eating on the trains."

"Passengers would probably end up by eating the horses and pulling the coach themselves."

"Margaret's father's spare time is spent adding up the millions of tons of unmined coal, the millions of acres of uncultivated grass, and turning them into billions of bottles of whisky and gin."

JAP ROMANTIC SUICIDES

By Earnest Hoberecht

ROMANTIC Japanese couples are finding that the course of democratic love does not always run smoothly. Many are turning to the traditional "double suicide" as the only solution to their troubles.

Police estimated that nearly 10 percent of the 103 suicides in Tokyo in 30 days were "love suicides."

Japan's teen-agers thought the Golden Era had arrived when the new "democratised" civil law went into effect in January. The new law says boys 18 and girls 16 may get married without their parents' consent "if mutually in love."

It was a revolutionary change, since it opens the way for love marriages in place of family arranged unions.

The cold fact of the situation is that young hearts still are not absolutely free.

TRADITIONS SURVIVE

Many prospective brides and grooms find they cannot beat Japan's feudalistic traditions which grew up around the centuries-old "family system."

Technically, the new civil law abolishes the family system.

Yet lovers find that the law exists more in theory than practice. For hundreds of years, papa or some older relative has been running the show, and the jitterbugging new generation is finding that the "head of the family" has little inclination to release the reins.

Strong-headed youngsters who marry without permission sometimes find that their parents threaten to disown them. The children still do not know that the new civil law prevents the father from cutting them off without a yen. So young men and women dreaming of a "new style" love marriage are reluctant to face economic insecurity and the loss of family ties.

Caught between the old and the new, couples are seeking a solution through "shinju"—the double suicide of love.

Sometimes a boy and a girl go to a small inn and die in each other's arms after taking poison. Other times they leap off cliffs into the sea or into a volcano.

The crater of Mount Mihara, on Oshima Island, is a favourite place for such suicides.

The Buddhist belief that in the next life they will be united. The practice is praised rather than condemned in Japanese sentimental literature.

LAWS CHANGED

Under the new law, a wife has greater protection than ever before, once she is married. No longer can her husband just kick her out against her will. There must be court proceedings before the romantically inclined male can take on a new bride.

The old days are gone. No longer can a husband walk down to the

(Continued on Page 3)

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

WHEN I read of a clock which will keep running for a thousand years, without being rewound, I smile.

The prog. live public is not going to stand the sort of old-fashioned nonsense. The question every decent person will ask is, "Does it tick faster than sound?" The Gallop public is sick of clocks which amble along, taking 60 minutes to cover an hour. "It is high time," said Councilor Mrs Pargoe, "that clock went as fast as planes." Sunk in Victorian sloth, my own clock takes a whole day and night to do 24 hours. Is that the way to planned prosperity and happiness? Is that what you call democracy?

Somewhat, I think that nobody will ever write such lines about this kind of clock as were written of a sundial: Here in a lonely glade, forgotten, I mark the tremendous process of the sky. So does your inmost soul, forgotten, mark The Dawn, the Noon, the Coming of the Dark.

Further difficulties

THREE Persians, despairing of ever getting a new plank set to work and mended their old one. An Inspector called while it was being mended, and accused them of being about to erect a cowshed. They pointed out that they had no cow, whereat the official said that it

made it worse to erect a cowshed which was not going to be occupied by a cow. They said they had no thought of erecting a cowshed; the wood was for a cesspool. They were then given three forms to fill, dealing with the Use of Wood for Inessential Activities. They filled them in all wrong and received a call from a Freightage Rate Adjuster, who said they were constructing a notable maisonette. He also congratulated their little pot of glue, saying that glue without a licence was illegal. A telephone call from Whitehall ordered them to sow clover. They said they had nowhere to sow it. It was then found that the call was intended for a farmer in Leicestershire.

Old days in Ahahaland

THE witch-doctor has no trouble in getting his patients to take concoctions of herbs. Their normal food is so revolting that they regard any novelty as a treat. If the medicine kills the patient, the disease is pronounced to have been incurable. If he recovers it is due to the medicine. As his youngest son is killed out of gratitude for his recovery, if the witch-doctor is at all fond of her he usually lets the patient die. And if the wife likes her husband she poisons the witch-doctor. The real difficulty for everyone is to find the difference between poison and ordinary food. The usual method is to invite the chief of neighbouring village and let him try the dish first.

NANCY Sluggo Turns Pro



Marshall Aid Leads To War

—HENRY WALLACE

Washington, Feb. 24.—Mr Henry Wallace, third party Presidential candidate, told correspondents here today that he believed the Marshall aid plan would "complete the split of Europe" and eventually lead to war.

He was answering questions after attacking the plan in evidence before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee today.

Mr. Wallace said: "I do feel that the European recovery programme would lead to war."

Asked why he opposed the union of Western Europe, Mr. Wallace said: "I am human, and I suppose I am against it because Mr. Churchill is for it. I admit there are certain geographical factors to recognize, but I feel the proposed union as formed against Russia, I have no objections to it if it has the proper safeguards."

He added that to obtain Russian co-operation, America must have "a new approach, including new faces in the executive branch of the Government."

Asked what a new President should do, Mr. Wallace replied: "There should be a meeting between the President and Generalissimo Stalin, with diplomatic and economic experts to cover their differences in detail."—Reuter.

Nordic Countries In

Oslo, Feb. 24.—Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland have decided to take part in the Marshall aid plan and in the proposed working committee for furthering economic co-operation between the 16 countries which attended the Paris Economic Conference, the Nordic Ministers announced tonight at the end of their meeting here.

These four Scandinavian governments agreed that a successful Marshall plan "will be of decisive importance for European reconstruction."

Their representatives—the Foreign and Trade Ministers of each country, the Danish Minister of Economics, and the Norwegian Minister of Industry—agreed that they "shared the same view on the problems the Marshall plan seeks to solve."—Reuter.

Germany In Union

The Hague, Feb. 24.—Germany could not be excluded from a Western Union, Baron Van Bontzel, the Dutch Foreign Minister, said in Parliament today.

There was no doubt, he said, that Britain wanted to include a recovered Germany in the Union.

Dutch wishes on Germany would have to be considered, he declared, and Holland had neglected no opportunity of pointing this out.

He warned against too much propaganda for federalism in Europe, saying that the question needed serious study.

Wherever possible, Holland would consider the realisation of federalism within the Charter of the United Nations.—Reuter.

Three-Power Talks

London, Feb. 24.—The talks between Britain, the United States and France on the future of Western Germany continued in London today without any decision being reached, a French Embassy spokesman stated tonight.

He refused to disclose further information. No communiqué on the meeting was published.—Reuter.

VICTORIA CLUB CALLOVERS

London, Feb. 24.—The first official callovers on the "Spring Double"—the Lincolnshire Handicap and the Grand National—took place at the Victoria Club here today.

The prices quoted were as follows: The Lincolnshire: 18 to 1 Clarion taken and offered; 22 to 1 Kinsale offered; 25 to 1 taken; 25 to 1 Creston offered; 28 to 1 taken; 25 to 1 Flexton, Piddachy and Provident, all offered; 28 to 1 Flipper taken and offered; 28 to 1 Commas offered; 33 to 1 taken; 33 to 1 Paton Saint taken and offered; 33 to 1 Lucky Jordan offered; 40 to 1 Pothouly, Aigle Royal and Bees Gorge, all taken and offered; 40 to 1 Nelson, Belmick, All Red and Saladin, all taken and offered; 50 to 1 Donbur offered.

The Grand National: 100 to 1 Ven 6 Rowland Roy and Silver Frame, both taken and offered; 20 to 1 Revelry taken and offered; 22 to 1 Klaxton taken and offered; 33 to 1 Weevil taken and offered; 33 to 1 Cloncarrie and Loughmoe, both offered; 33 to 1 War Risk offered; 40 to 1 taken; 40 to 1 Prince Regent, taken and offered; 40 to 1 First of the Dandies offered; 50 to 1 taken; 40 to 1 Caughoo and Halcyn Hours, both offered; 50 to 1 Lovely Cottage; Happy Home, Houswarmer and Jock, all offered.—Reuter.

NOTICE

TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers are requested to note that not less than 24 hours notice prior to the day of publication should be given for all commercial display advertisements, change of copy etc. Notices and Classified Advertisements will be received up till 4.30 p.m. for the following day.

WAR CRIMES TRIALS CRITICISED

Westover, Massachusetts, Feb. 24.—Judge Charles Wennerstrum, the United States war crimes judge who presided at the last Nuremberg court which sentenced Field Marshal Von List and other German Italian commanders, declared here today that he was standing by his criticisms of the Allied trials.

He said the prosecution in the German war crimes trials "failed to attain an objectively aloof from vindictiveness and from personal ambitions for convictions."

Earlier, Justice James T. Brand, of the Oregon Supreme Court, his predecessor as presiding judge at Nuremberg, had declared that Judge Wennerstrum's criticisms were "a great disservice to the Government."—Reuter.

ANTARCTIC DISPUTE RUMOURS

London, Feb. 24.—Informed naval circles said today that the British cruiser Nigeria might not arrive before the week-end off disputed Deception Island.

These circles added that the Nigeria may be expected tomorrow in Port Stanley. There she will stay for at least 24 hours for refuelling. The commander of the ship (Capt D. L. Moore) is expected to leave the port for a prolonged conference with the Governor of the Falklands, Mr. Miles Clifford.

After refuelling, the Nigeria will continue her trip together with the sloop Stripe, which has a much slower speed and which will consider slow down the trip to Antarctica.

It is generally assumed in London that the Argentine Navy may have left Deception Island waters before the Nigeria's arrival. Political circles point out, however, that the presence of Argentine ships in Antarctic waters is not incompatible with the Falklands Governor any assistance he needs.

Rumours In Circulation

The delay in the British answer to Chile and Argentina has given rise to various rumours as to the alleged contents of the notes now in preparation. Thus, it is asserted that Britain would suggest a big international conference on the Antarctic, not as an alternative but as an addition to the British proposal to submit the matter to the International Court at The Hague.

The rumours suggest that Britain might be able to bring three British Dominions into the conference if it is called, especially Australia, which is interested.

Other conference participants might be Norway, France and the United States, besides the interested Latin American countries.

There is no official confirmation that such a conference is planned.—United Press.

CRASH OVER DAVAO

ENGINE TROUBLE RESPONSIBLE

Manila, Feb. 24.—Engine trouble is believed by the management to have been the cause of the Commercial Airlines plane crash on Sunday morning over Mati Airfield, in Davao, which claimed the lives of 13 persons, including six children and the pilot, Captain A. Buenaventura, a veteran Philippine Army Air Force officer.

The children, sons of wealthy Davao families, had gone aloft for a brief flight in the sky for fun. The ill-fated flight was part of an aviation educational programme in Davao.

The airfield itself was inaugurated only last Thursday.

An official report on the cause of the accident is expected to be made public in the near future.

This was the Commercial Airlines' first accident in three years, and it was emphasised that the flight was not a regular schedule hop.—Reuter.

Cocktail Party & Tennis Films

A large gathering of tennis players and followers of the game were entertained at the Jacobson Room, Hongkong Hotel last evening when Messrs M. McMaster and D. Blacklock, Directors of Slazengers, Ltd., were hosts.

Following cocktails, three interesting films were shown. The audience saw a colour film of the 1944 Davis Cup Challenge Round between Australia and the United States played at Melbourne, a black and white film of the Wimbledon meeting, and another depicting how the Slazengers' Australian factories converted themselves from peace-time to war-time production.

The hosts were introduced by Mr John Pearce, and Mr Blacklock intimated in a brief speech that it was hoped to arrange for Australia's Davis Cup team this year to visit Hongkong as well as Malaya after they had completed in the tournament.

FRANCO REPORTED CONTEMPLATING CABINET SHAKE-UP

Madrid, Feb. 24.—Well-informed political sources said today that Generalissimo Franco is seriously contemplating a sweeping Cabinet shake-up shortly. These sources said that the changes would affect almost all portfolios, possibly with the only exception of the post of Foreign Affairs.

Keynote Of Britain's Economic Policies

London, Feb. 24.—The keynote of Britain's economic policies this year must be to make sterling strong and stable as a contribution to the British economy and to a great part of the rest of the world as well.

Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said here tonight.

Addressing a National Savings rally, he emphasised that, during Marshall aid, Britain would need the backing of a reserve of gold or dollars for the trade of the sterling area because she must maintain the confidence of the rest of the sterling area and the world, essential to any world stability in trade.

"There is a really hard struggle before us, do not say a desperate struggle, because that would imply that there was no way out."

It was a struggle, he added, of the most adventurous possibilities.—Reuter.

New Price Controls

London, Feb. 24.—Mr Harold Wilson, President of the Board of Trade, announced today that he had signed 14 orders designed to assure that there would be no provocative increase in prices or profits that would strengthen demands for increased wages.

The new orders follow the announcement by Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, on February 12 that the Government would put a price ceiling on a large range of goods based on the December-January levels as one step in its "freeze wages, profits and prices" programme to check inflation.

Mr Wilson told a press conference that the new orders covered two main classes of goods.

They brought under up-to-date price control inessential goods formerly under only control and laid down the rule that manufacturers, who under a "cost plus" system have previously been able to pass on the cost of wage increases to the consumer, could not add any cost resulting from wage agreements reached after February 4, 1948, unless the Board of Trade specifically agreed.

Umbrellas, typewriters, cameras, combs, radios, gramophones, television sets, toilet articles and stationery come under the new controls.

More than 100 items of everyday use and their accessories will be pegged under the 14 orders, which will come into effect on March 15.—Reuter.

THREATENING LETTERS

Batavia, Feb. 24.—A number of threatening letters, signed "You may die," have been received by delegates to the Bandung conference to consider a provisional constitution for the proposed new state of West Java, the Netherlands East Indies news agency reported today.

Hotels are being guarded and all precautions have been taken in Bandung, a hill city about 120 miles southeast of Batavia.

All members of the committee which prepared the agenda for the conference and some other delegates have received the letters, the news agency said.

The new state of West Java would comprise mainly the territory occupied by the Dutch in the police action last year.

The delegates are also discussing a proposal that the Bandung conference should become the state's first Parliament. When this was raised at today's meeting, there was a heated discussion, resulting in an adjournment for one hour.

The conference will meet again tomorrow.—Reuter.

Washington, Feb. 24.—President Truman, in a statement made on board his yacht in the Caribbean, unqualifiedly endorsed Mr. Austin's statement on Palestine before the Security Council today, calling it an accurate representation of the United States Government's views.

"The Palestine problem has been and is the deep concern of this Government. It had been most carefully considered by me, the Cabinet, and other responsible Government officials."

"The United States policy had been developed through long and exhaustive study and many consultations."

At Lake Success, Mr. Austin's speech was generally looked upon as one of the most ambiguous and puzzling statements yet made, leaving the Palestine problem up in the air.

Mr. Austin's statement, subsequently amplified by a United States spokesman, made these distinctions:

1.—The Security Council has the right to take measures to preserve peace.

2.—The Security Council has no constitutional right to impose any General Assembly recommendation by force.

3.—The American policy on this tangled issue falls into two separate solutions:

Firstly, the Security Council could send an international force to Palestine on the assumption that the problem threatens international peace.

If this course were adopted, the only legal alternative for the United Nations would be to impose a sort of moratorium on Palestine and put the country under a form of trusteeship for one or two years.

A temporary trusteeship until tempers cool has been talked of in Washington as one of the alternatives envisaged by the United States.

Secondly, the United Nations could send an international force to Palestine to keep the peace and then ask both Arabs and Jews to discuss what settlement they are prepared to accept.

Whichever of the alternatives may be adopted by the Council, one fact is clear to the majority here—the partition plan as formulated by the General Assembly last year may, have to be revised.—Reuter.

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